

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/704,179

Examiner

Thu Ha T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

ST. PIERRE, ROBERT P.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11/21/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-11,13-18 and 35-37.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached.
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Thu Ha T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' Representative, Mr. Wesley A. Ferrebee (Reg. No. 51,312), on January 16, 2007, and February 07, 2007.

3. The application has been amended as follow:

In the claims:

Claims 1, 12, 35 and 37 are amended as following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying messages on a display device, said messages originating from a plurality of networked electronic devices communicating with the display device over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a protocol to enable a plurality of networked devices to send messages to a display device;

registering a plurality of networked electronic devices with said display device, in response to a registration request from each of the networked electronic devices, prior to said display device displaying any messages from the plurality of networked

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electronic devices, the display device assigning an identifier to each of the networked electronic devices upon registration;

the display device sending the assigned identifiers to the plurality of networked electronic devices in response to the registration; and

creating, in response to the registering of the plurality of networked electronic devices with said display device, a separate priority message queue on said display device for each of the plurality of networked electronic devices registered with the display device, each priority message queue having a priority level assigned to it based on an identity of that registered networked electronic device, each display message received by the display device from that registered networked electronic device being placed in the priority message queue that is assigned to that networked electronic device; and

~~displaying a received message.~~

creating a unique message ID identifying each message placed in said priority message queue of a given networked electronic device;

selecting a highest priority message queue among the priority message queues, said priority message queue containing at least one message;

selecting from within said highest priority message queue a message with highest message priority level; and

displaying said selected message on said display device.

12. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for use with a display device with a network interface, said computer-readable storage medium holding computer executable instructions when executed by a computer to perform for a method, ~~said instructions~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a protocol to enable a plurality of networked electronic devices to send messages to a display device, and registering a plurality of networked electronic devices with said display device, in response to a registration request from each of the networked electronic devices, prior to said display device displaying any messages from the plurality of networked electronic device, the display device assigning an identifier to each of the networked electronic device upon registration;

the display device sending the assigned identifier to the networked electronic devices in response to the registration;

creating, in response to the registering of the plurality of networked electronic devices with said display device, a separate priority message queue on said display device for each of the plurality of networked electronic devices registered with the display device, each priority message queue having a priority level assigned to it based on an identity of a corresponding registered networked electronic device, each display message received by the display device from a registered networked electronic device being placed in a priority message queue that is assigned to said networked electronic device; and

~~displaying a received message.~~

creating a unique message ID identifying each message placed in said
priority message queue of a given networked electronic device;
selecting a highest priority message queue among the priority message queues,
said priority message queue containing at least one message;
selecting from within said highest priority message queue a message with
highest message priority level; and
displaying said selected message on said display device.

37. (Currently amended) A method for displaying messages on a display device,
said messages originating from a plurality of networked electronic devices
communicating with the display device over a network, said method comprising the
steps of:

providing a protocol to enable a plurality of networked devices to send messages
to a display device;

registering a plurality of networked electronic devices with said display device, in
response to a registration request from each of the networked electronic devices, prior
to said display device displaying any messages from the plurality of networked
electronic devices, the display device assigning an identifier to each of the networked
electronic devices upon registration;

the display device sending the assigned identifiers to the plurality of networked
electronic devices in response to the registration;

creating, in response to the registering of the plurality of networked electronic devices with said display device, a separate priority message queue on said display device for each of the plurality of networked electronic devices registered with the display device, each priority message queue having a priority level assigned to it based on an identity of that registered networked electronic device, each display message received by the display device from that registered networked electronic device being placed in the priority message queue that is assigned to that networked electronic device;

receiving a display message at the display device from a given one of the networked electronic devices;

placing the received display message in the priority message queue for the given networked electronic device;

providing a priority level for each display message sent from the given networked electronic device to the display device;

creating a unique message ID identifying each message placed in said priority message queue of said given networked electronic device;

selecting a highest priority message queue among the priority message queues, said priority message queue containing at least one message;

selecting from within said highest priority message queue a message with the a highest message priority level; and

displaying said selected message on said display device.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1-2, 5-11, 13-18, and 35-37 are allowed.
5. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's terminal disclaimer filed on August 17, 2005 and applicant's remarks filed on November 21, 2006 with respect to the added claim limitations point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Ha Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3989. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Najjar Saleh, can be reached at (571) 272-4006.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding

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is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ThuHa Nguyen

Primary Examiner
February 16, 2007